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MARVELOVS
ARY of CAPTAIN
JOHN SMITH late President of his Maiesties Colony of Virginia

JOHN SMITH
his Arms

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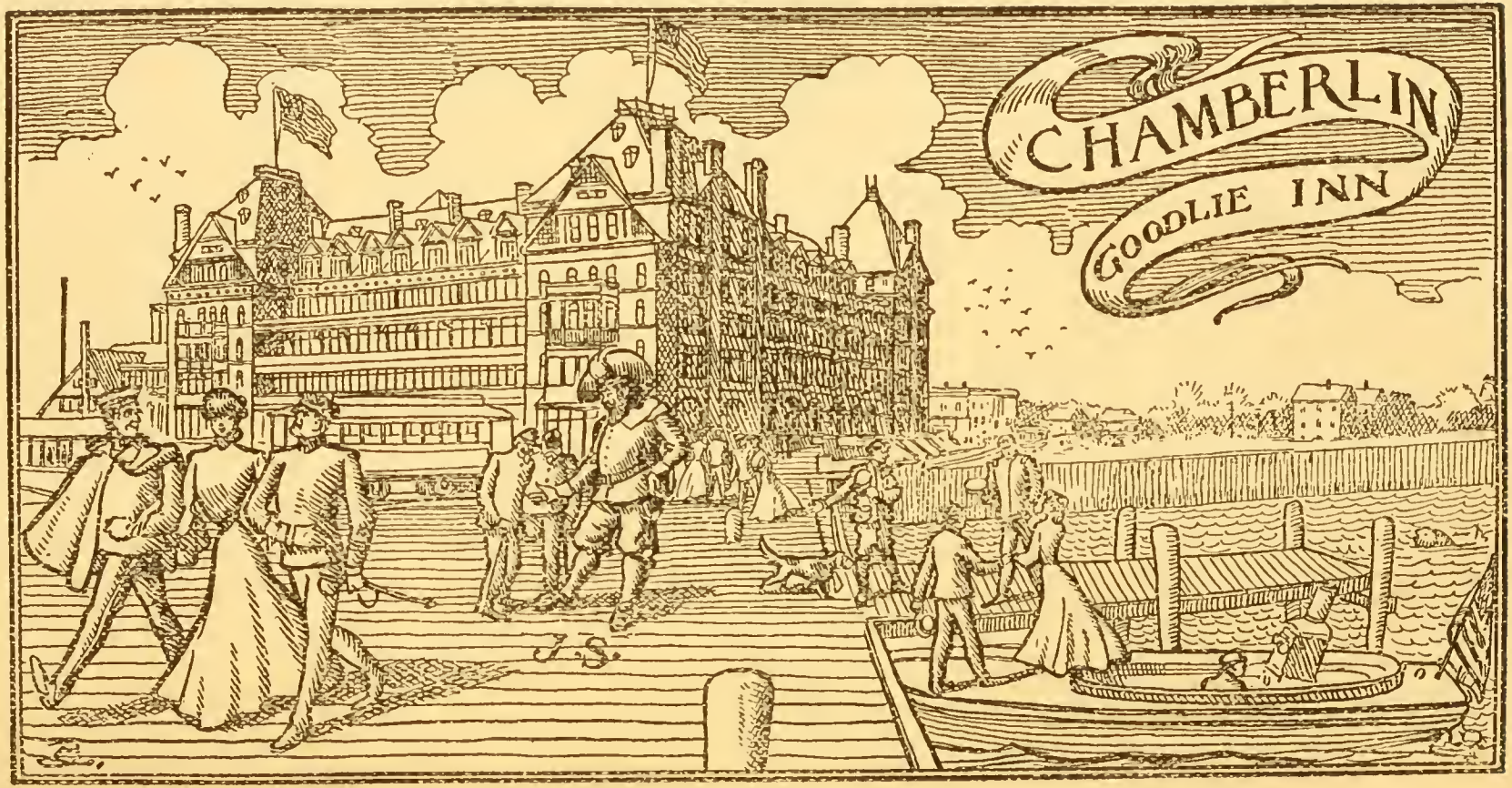
The MARVELOVS DIARY
of CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH
late President of His
Maiesties Colony
of Virginia

RECENTLY DISCOVERED
at HOTEL CHAMBERLIN
Ould Poynt Comfort
Virginia


CHAMBERLIN
GOODLIE INN

These are the Lines that show thy Face, but those
That show thy Grace and Glory brighter bee:
Thy Faire Discouveries and Fowle Overthrowes
Of Salvages, much Civillized by thee
Best show thy Spirit and to it Glory Wyn,
So, thou art Brasse without but Golde within.

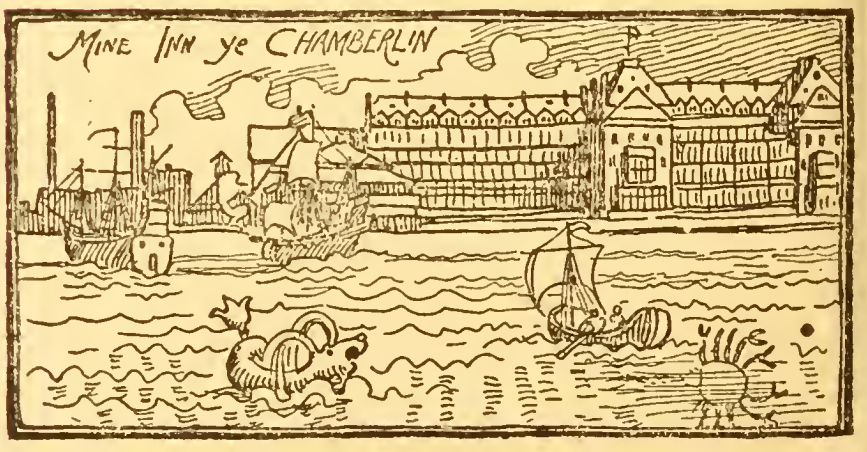
IN the confvsion into which my mind had fallen dvring the covrse of euents herein stated, it seemeth best to me to set down in my Diarie the record thereof, truly pictured by mine own hand,

hand, lest mine enemies charge the remarkable experiences which have befallen me to the mere extrauagance of traueller's tales, as they haue done aforetime to my greate cost.

Transported into ye Twentieth Centvrie

I, Captaine Iohn Smith, sometime head of the fighting forces in *His Most Gracious Majestie's* colony of *Virginia,* and later President thereof, suddenlie find myself transported bodilie into the *Twentieth Centvrie* and in the midst of a ciuilization not wotted of in the rvde bvt stirring times which existed in this same faire *Virginia* some three hvndred years ago, and in which *I* may say that *I* took no small part.

IT had been noised about for some time in the realm of spirits, wherein *I* now dwell, that svch vast changes had taken place in the three hvndred years since *I* landed in the faire domain of

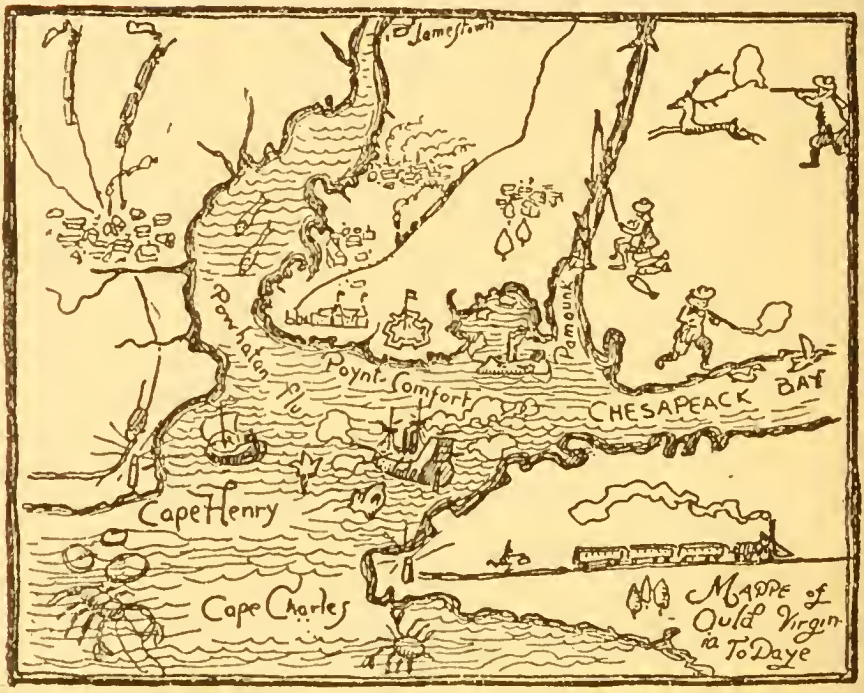


Virginia, that the gouernor of the province had determined to celebrate with greate acclaim and mvch valiant show of the arts both of Warre and Peace the three hvndredth anniversarie of ovr landing. It may be well conceived by mortals that the celebration of this euent, fravght with so mvch of honovr, covld not fail to be of greate moment to me, euen thovgh so many years have elapsed since *I* departed from those stirring scenes of strife and discouerie. Hence *I* determined to reuisit that land of faire *Virginia*, wherein *I* had gained svch well deserued renown and fame, hoping that some trace might be had of the scenes which were so viuidlie connected with my sovldier days. With this determination did *I* set forth and of a svdden fovnd myself transported, in a semblance of my bodilie presence, to these shores, familiar, yet vnfamiliar to mine eyes. *I* know not for what period this embodiment may endvre, hence

I reulsit Faire Virginio

hence *I* was moved me to reuisit with what speed *I* might the scenes in which my variovs aduentvres took place. My experiences *I* have set down at length, for the confovnding of mine enemies, who haue not hesitated to declare an

Map of yo Country About Ould Poynt



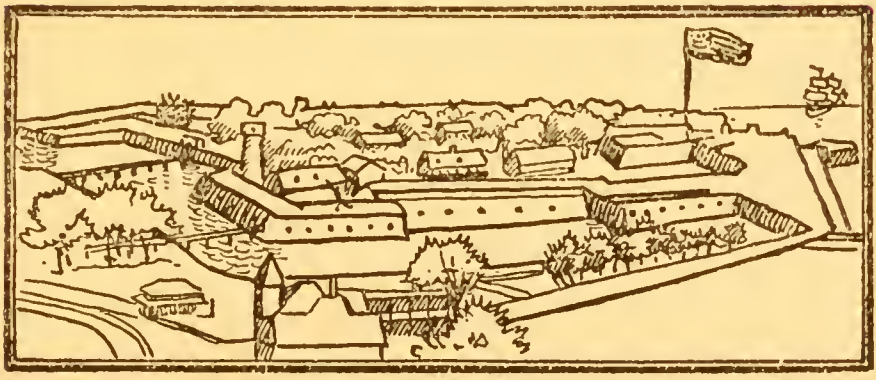
inuention of mine own euen the storie of my escape from death at the hands of *Salvages* throvgh the interuention of *Pocahontas*, the davghter of *Chief Powhatan*, which is set down at length in my "*General Historie of Virginia.*"

Interven-tion of Pocahontas

TRULIE the changes which haue taken place in this erstwhile wilderness since my exploration of it in 1609 passes all belief. Here, at *Old Poynt Comfort*, named by *Captaine Nuport* for its safe harbovr in times of storm and stress, is located mine inn, a stately mansion the like of which *His Most Graciovs Majestie King Iames* might gladlie haue inhabited, and possessed of diuers most strange and wondrovs comforts and conueniences vnknown to that most wise and gentle *Sovreign*.

HERE is now located a *Fort*, vnlike in all respects to that *Fort Algernon*, which once stroue to protect the settlers of this delightsome region. Yea,

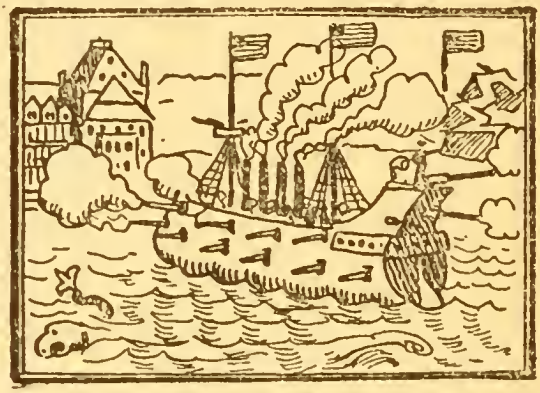
Ye Fort



EA, and here be gathered manie mightie ships of *Warre*, svch as mine eyes have *never* before beholden.

Strange Craft

The waters of the *Bay* are thronged with craft, so strange and wonderfvl to my sight that *I* would fain gaze



my fill were *I* not reminded that my time may, indeed, be short. Manie of these uessels are propelled by an agencie

I Sayle About Hampton Roads

called *steam,* so strange and mysteriovs of origin that for avght *I* can aver to the contrarie the *Black Art* may be in it all. Euen the vessels which depend vpon the agencie of the winds of *Heauen* are so altered in form and so greatlie enlarged in size that *I* can bvt mvse vpon the wonder of it and wish that svch ships might haue brovght to *His Majestie's* staruing colonists the needed svpplies for the lack of which so manie perished in the black winters of 1609 and 1610.

To Black Art

Of

OF mine inn, yclept *Hotel Chamberlin*, a vast and svmptvovs building, from which the eye may view the blve waters of the *Bay*, *I* hesitate to set forth the truth at length in these pages, lest belief be impossible to those to whom it is my pvrpose to show them. And yet with longer stay both my interest and wonder so increase, that at risk of disbelief, *I* mvst discovrse of its wonders.

Wonders of yo Hotel Chamberlin

IT is of proportions so vast that euen the palace of *His Most Gracious Majestie* wovld seem small in comparison, and at euerie hand svch comforts and lvxvries as covld not be vovchsafed to

View of yo Passing Ships

euen goode *Qveene Anne* herself. Vast corridors and rooms stretch ovt on euerie hand: porches, extended, are in *Svmmer* opened to the cooling breezes which euer sweep ouer the waters of the *Roads*, and which in *Winter* are encloased in glass, wherein one may enjoy the sights of uessels, both of *Warre* and *Peace*, which are continvally passing to and fro, or ride at anchor in the peaceful waters which proued so welcome to vs after ovr tempestvovs uoyages in *1607*. This was, indeed, a *Poynt* of *Comfort* to vs who braued the then vnknown seas, and a *Godlie Prouidence* wovld seem to haue directed ovr covrse to the fairest spot on all this shore; for to this day,

Poynt of Comfort

day, greate throngs come to this uast *Inn* for refreshment both of mind and bodie, and in all this faire land there is no spot wherein greater aduantage of climate and sport can be had than at this same *Poynt of Comfort;* for here are gathered faire women and maidens and gallant and wise men from all ouer this uast domain, which has sprung from the vnknown wilderness which once confronted vs. For health, pleasvre and sport do they come, and, methinks the faire maidens do love to congregate here for the sight of the yovng men of *Warre*, who, in gallant array, do gather at mine inn both from the *Fort* and the greate ships of *Warre*, which are continvallie hereabovts, and verilie it would seem that one would be hard pvt to find a place whereat life wovld be the more pleasing to mind or eye than at this marvellovs place. As in my day, while we did eat, *Minstrels* did perform, so here at the hovr for meals did a nvmber of men on diuers of strange instrvments discovrse sweet tvnes, and for dancing, when the men and maidens do disport themselves in the greate ball-room,

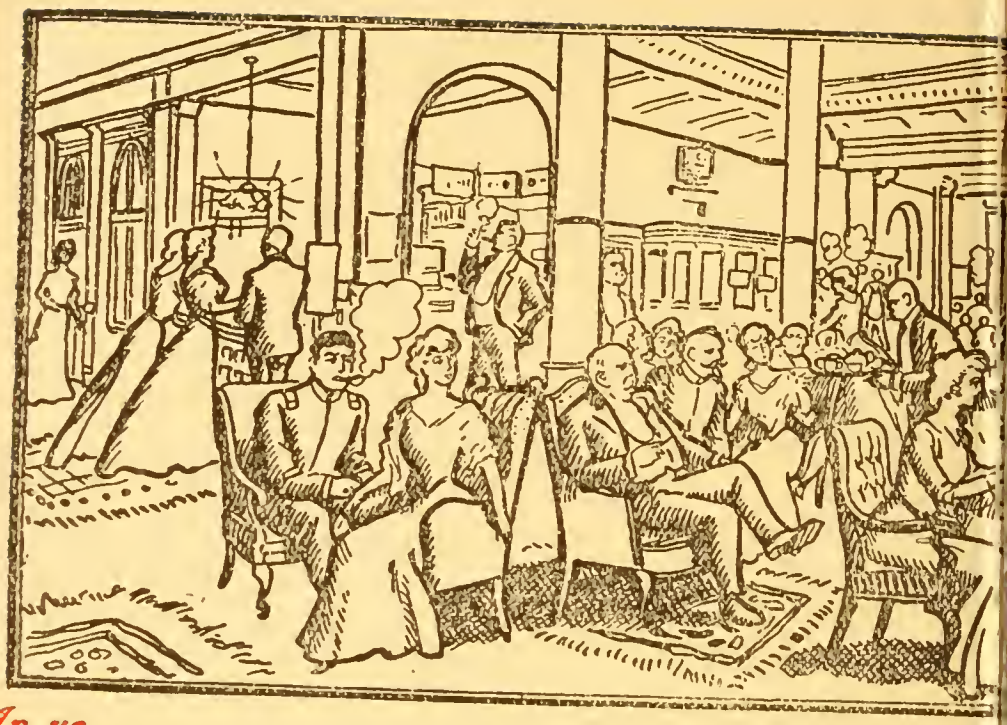
Faire Women and Maidens

hvng with lights of strange and wonderous brilliancie.

SMALL need for food ships now. The banquet hall of this faire hostlerie is euen vnto me a wonder, not onlie for its wonderovs lights, svch as no

Yo Greate Ball Room

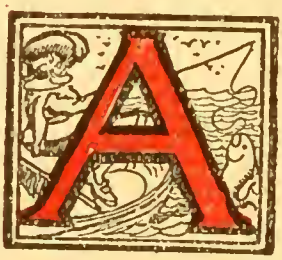
Palace euer knew in the old days, but because the tables groan with such a companie of dishes as wovld arovse all wonder in the breast of *His Majestie* himself, who dined not thvs, euen in banqvet state, and ever my mind goes back to the thovght of the banqvet halls of our late illustrious



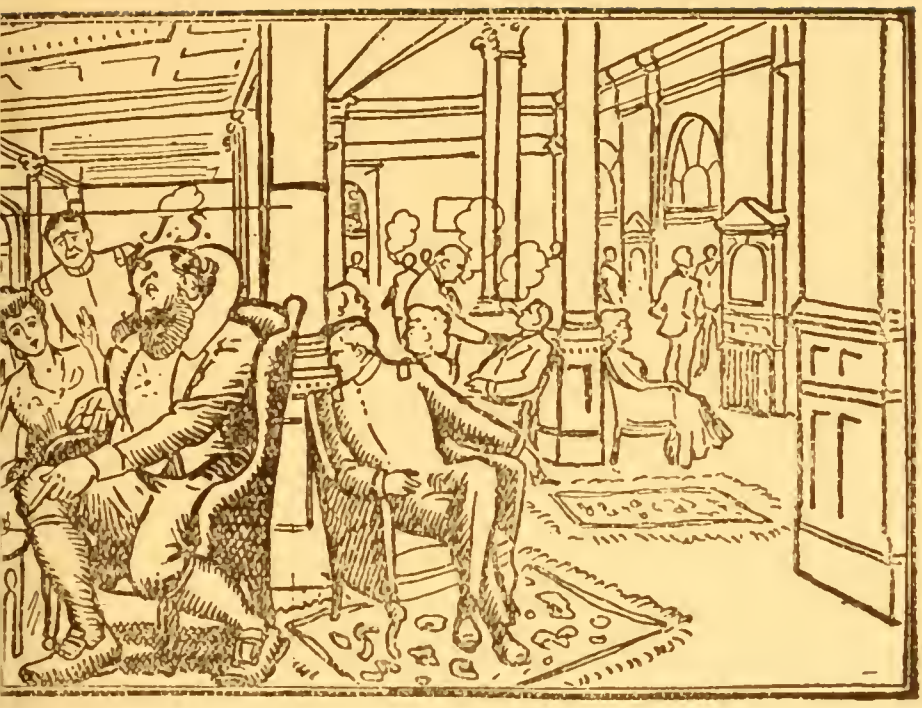
In yo Noble Hall

trious *Queene*, for whom this *Virginia* was named.

Verilie, indeed, the times be changed, and who can doubt that they be changed for the better? Methinks not *Captaine Iohn Smith*, after a meal eaten at mine inn, *Hotel Chamberlin*.



FTER the euening meal do get together all the gvests of the uast *Inn* in the noble hall, just within the entrance, and while the strains of bewitching mvsick are heard, do they drink a concoction of a berrie from far off lands, called coffee: and stranger still, do the men smoke tobacco, as did my good



friend, *Powhatan,* to the soothing of both mind and bodie. And thvs, with mvch lavghter and merrie discovrse, do the hovrs pass away.

Much Laughter and Merrie Discovrse

I wovld that ualiant Sovldiers and Saylors were not so plentiful in this most pleasing region. Oft haue *I* n bygone hovrs begviled the time in liscovrse which has not proued of little nterest to the maidens gathered nigh. As time aduances it is my pvrpose, when ll the gvests are gathered at evening n the uast apartment known as the *Exchange,* to seek ovt some beavteous naid and haplie relate to her a few of nine own thrilling escapes by land and ea. Yet, seemeth it that a clovd of *Officers* do ever wait vpon these faire dames,

His Majestie Dined not Thvs

dames, so that mine opportvnity may be tardier in coming than pleaseth me.

AND yet, even *I, Captaine Iohn Smith,* haue had to yield to other *Sovldiers,* of fewer years, yet not, will *I* think, of greater ualor. And, yea, let me set it down herein, that I cannot wonder, now that *I* haue seen the fort at which they gather, its hvge guns movnted upon mightie ramparts, its stovt defences and the skill at arms with which the souldiers are trained in matters of war. The new

day has far advanced, and *I*, alas, am of the old!

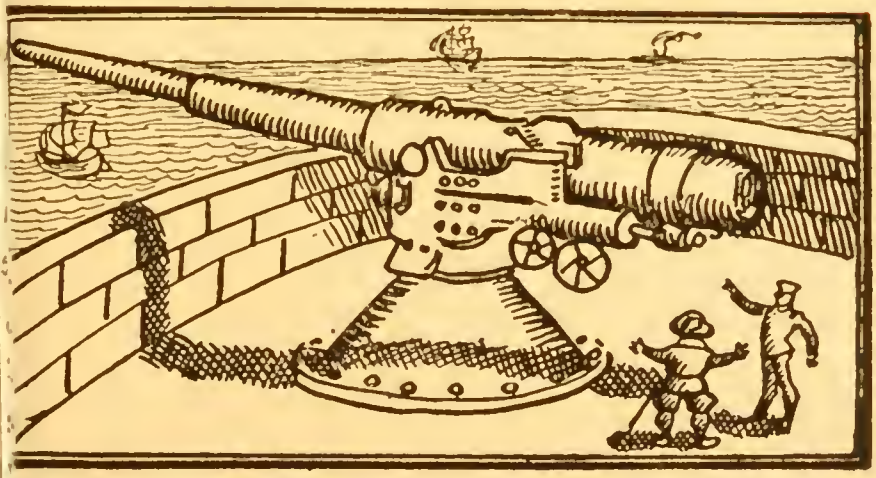
This morn did *I* uisit the *Fort*, that Fort which has replaced *Fort Algernon*, which in 1611 protected, as best it might, *His Majestie's* svbjects, somewhat abovt this site. Now, a uast pile of statelie bvildings, with moat and earthworks on which are movnted gvns of most prodigiovs size, take the place of ovr poor Stockade, manned by fortie *Sovldiers* with seven poor cannoon for their aid.

I Visit yᵉ Fort

I witnessed, and a greate companie of beavteovs dames and damsels as well, the goodlie spectacle of "parade," when vpon a broad green the men of warre, with statelie, albeit gracefvl mein, did perform manie a strange and wonderfvl evolution, fitting them to face the foe, with skill and craft.

Musick

Guns of a Most Prodigiovs Size



MVSICK there was, svch mvsic as might well hearten the *Sovldier* as he went forth to war, and dovblie sweet sovnded it in that safe enclosvre, vnder hvge live oaks and vpon a green so faire and beauteous, in the evening sun.

Beavty and Valor

Here, at euen, takes place as well, a most faire ceremonie, the men assembled to witness the lowering of the flag, as is the cvstom at the setting of the sun. And here assemble the faire maidens, as before, that *Beauty* may smile on *Valor*, as it was euer since the world began.

To-day *I* aduentvred forth from the landing at the *Chamberlin* to witness the maruels of a modern ship of *Warre* —a fighting ship of svch size and strength that scarce dare *I* to set down its inuentions. Alack, how small and poor seem compared to them were the

Parade

fighting uessels of mine own day! The greate *Armada* which her late *Most Gracious Majestie* did uentvre forth would appear a mere hvddle of insignificant sayles, it seemeth, compared to this greate ocean fort rocking vpon the faire waters of *Hampton Roads.*

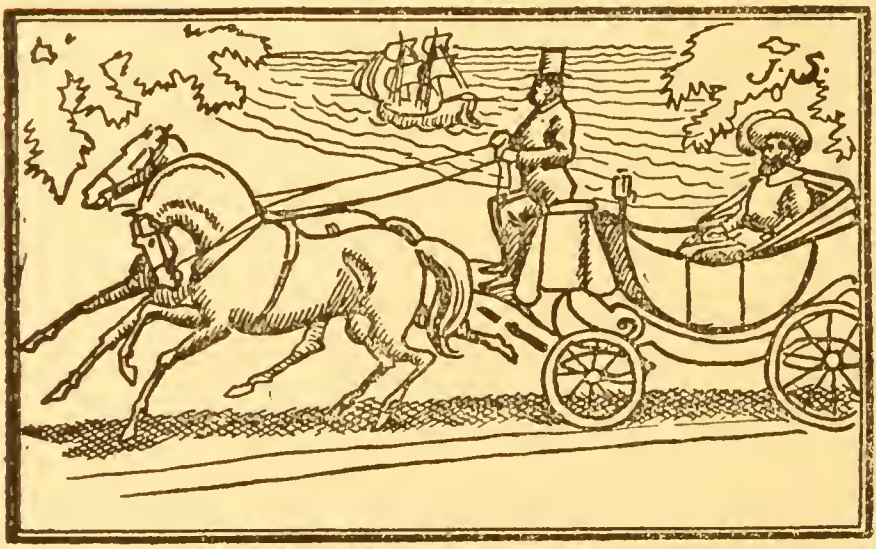
Ye Greate Ships of Warre

NOR are the gallant officers of these greate warre-ships a whit behind the *Sovldiers* in their attentions and deuotions to the faire sex. The gvests of this greate *Inn* are euer welcome on board these hvge caravels; for euer haue the mysteries of the sea been of interest to the dwellers vpon the shore. Small *Shallops* are euer darting to and fro laden with those to whom the greate armament and hvge engines

Attentive Saylors

engines of these mightie ships of warre are always mysteriovs and interesting. Nor is it always the sight of these greate machines that calleth the faire maids on board them. Manie a time, as *Will Shakespeare* doth pvt it, "Grim visaged *Warre* doth smooth his wrinkled front;" and to the sweet strains of mvsick often vpon the decks of these greate ships, 'mid pomp and circumstance of warre doth the faire maids and gallant men dance and make merrie. So thvs, in this fauored spot, doth the attractions of the sea vie with those of the land; and it doth seem to me that the faire maidens hereabovt are mvch pvt to choose between the sons of *Mars* and those of *Neptvne*.

Pleasant Drives



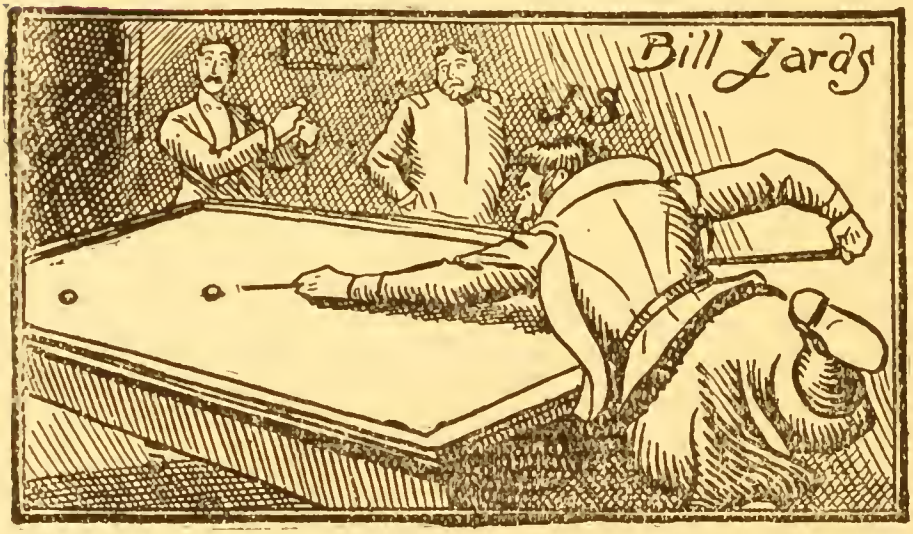
In bygone days some of *His Gracious Majestie's Scottish* caualiers haue related vnto me the glorie of a game called *Golf*. To the *links* wherevpon this mightie game is played repair these maids and *officers*, and on their retvrn mvch talk do *I* hear concerning it. It is possible that, if *I* remain, euen *I* must seek to learn the vse of the manie clubs and other strange accoutrements, carried in a long bag to the links.

DAILIE do *I* witness great wonders. In a maruellovs conveyance called, why *I* know not, a trollie, have *I* trauelled for the space of one hovr from the *Chamberlin*. Came we then to a vast and bvsy place called in honovr of mine old comrade "*Newport News*." Here is sitvated a shipyard, wherein are built ships so hvge, so trim, so safe for sayling that it maketh sad the heart within me that *I* no more may tempt the main. Compared to these provd ships how small and

Ye Marvellovs Trollie

and mean seem the fleets of which *King Iames* was ever so provd as we set fourth from *London Town*, in *December* 1606. Much of the sights which met mine eyes in that bvsy place *I* scarce may speak of; rigging and sayls and ovtline all are changed in these greate ships. The most of them are propelled by a strange and diabolical inuention called Steam, the trusting of which might well appal the boldest heart it seemeth vnto me; yet in nowise dare *I* vnfold this belief to those abovt me, for to me alone seemeth this reuealed, and *Captaine Iohn Smith* was euer of too bold a heart to hesitate where others dared!

A Diabolical Inuention



HIS day whereon these things be recorded has been marked by manie wonders. Waking earlie, *I* was overjoyed to see a goodlie companie of gentlemen set forth, armed with faire weapons, which had haplie, if vsed vnder mine own direction, set to flight those *Salvages* which so mightilie destroyed the peace of *His Majestie's* svbjects in this *Colonie* aforetime.

"Meseems," thovght *I*, "this doth betoken warre! Dovbtless, the cvnning *Salvage* has once more displayed his enmitie towards the whites, and taken, after his wilie fashion, to the warre path to burn and massacre at will!"

I bethovght me of the trembling maidens in these statelie halls and longed to join, and, if needs be, to command this gallant partie.

Alack, no need of sword this day was mine! The companie of *caualiers* fared forth not to warre, bvt to the hvnt, for the enjoyment of which most goodlie game preserves are provided by the management of the *Chamberlin*. Greate sport is promised to the hvnter, as witnessed *I*, at euen, on their retvrn, with

To ye Hvnt

with overflowing bags. Scarce covld *I* refrain mine enuy when *I* witnessed the resvlt of one day's hvnt.

To this faire preserve will *I* one day set forth.

I Will One Day Set Forth

Bvt one hovr's ride from *Old Poynt Comfort* is it sitvated; what matters it, if to gain it *I* must uentvre upon a strange inuention vnknown to me aforetime, called a *railroad!*

SOVLDIERS a many be there in this uicinitie—as *I* haue before set down—yet greate was my svrprise to discouer, as *I* haue by the witness of mine own eyes, that here the old *sovldier*, maimed by warre or past the years at which the bowels of a man do yearn for fighting, is cared for, hovsed and fed by the *Gouernment* of this land.

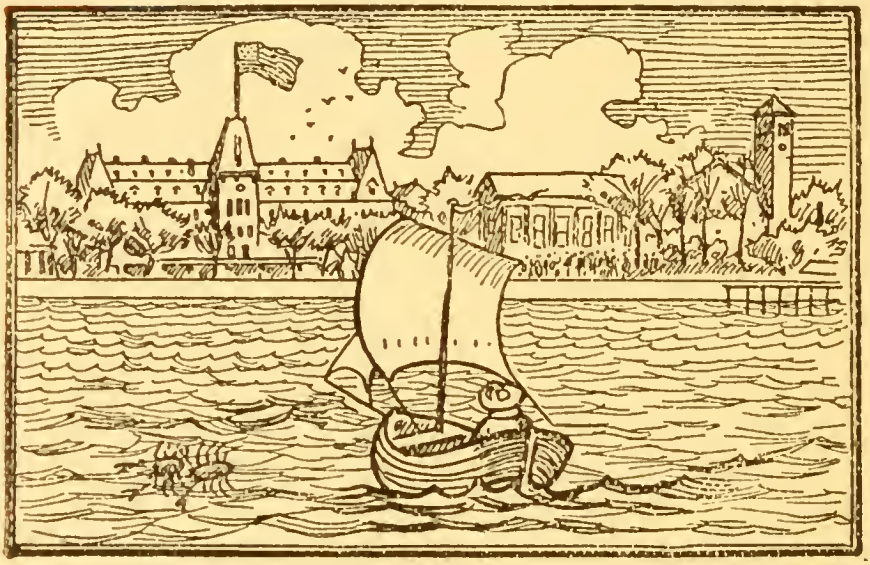
This afternoon, scarce belieuing the tale which had been to mine ear related, *I* sallied forth to uisit in mine own person the *Home* for *Disabled Sovldiers*. Aye, in verrie truth it was so, for here, in loftie bvildings, set in beavteous grovnds, liue the old *sovldiers* at their ease, discovrsing mvch of battles fovght and won, after the wont of

Home for Disabled Souldiers

of *sovldiers*, since the world was new.

A strange matter was reuealed vnto me throvgh mine offer of aid, if needs be, against the cvnning assavlts of the *Salvages*, so well known of me in my days of dwelling in this faire land of *Virginia*. Bvt few of the aforetime numerous hordes of *Salvages* remain to-day in this goodlie

Hampton Institvte



land, and manie are gathered together in a greate institvtion of learning called *Hampton Institvte* and instrvcted in the peacefvl arts! Yea, in the same vicinity in which *I* once langvished six long weeks in crvel captivitie among them, nigh the spot vpon which the faire *Pocahontas* did in my behalf so kindlie intercede with her stern father, the descendants of these same *Salvages* are tavght to sow and reap, to weaue and bvild!

Alack! My dream is ended. *I* mvst this night set forth for the realm of spirits, which *I* haue so long inhabited. Indeed, times be so changed that I am ill at ease in this new day; and so, farewell! The world hath indeed trauelled far since *I* was of it. Jamestown is bvt a romantic memory; my deeds are legends; and with a sad heart *I* leaue behind me the comforts of *Hotel Chamberlin*. And while *I* may neuer again uisit that "Point of Comfort," yet one comfort carry *I* hence. With what wondrovs tales may *I* not confvse the ears of svch comrades of mine old days, as fare forth when the clocks giue tongve to midnight! A worthy teller of trauel tales *I* euer was; bvt by my troth, neuer vntil now had *I* svch maruels to relate!

I Relate Greate Maruels

The following extract from John Smith's History of Virginia, written by this celebrated explorer shortly after his return to England, is remarkable because of its prophetic character. Not only is the country, as he states, "propitious to the use of man," but there is at Old Point Comfort an immense fortification, with its accompanying military school, literally a "nurse for soldiers," and the additional fact that Hampton Roads is the rendezvous of the ships of the Navy would certainly indicate that it is a "practice for mariners." Even more startling is the immense development of the "trade for merchants" at Newport News and Norfolk; and the instruction of the Indian at the Hampton Institute in the arts of civilization and the doctrines of Christianity would all seem to indicate that John Smith was indeed gifted with prophetic vision.

There is bvt one entrance into this covntry, and that is at the movth of a goodlie bay eighteen or twenty miles broad; The Cape on the Sovth is called Cape Henry, in honovr of ovr most noble prince; the north cape is called Cape Charles, in honovr of the worthy Dvke of York. The isles before are called Smith's Isles, by the name of the discoverer. Within is a covntry that may have the prerogative over the most pleasant places known, for heaven and earth never agreed better to frame a place for man's habitation.

The mildness of the air, the fertility of the soil and sitvation of the rivers are so propitiovs to the vse of man, as no place is more conuenient for pleasvre, profit and man's svstenance vnder any latitvde or climate.

So, then, here is a place, a nvrse for soldiers, a practice for mariners, a trade for merchants, a reward for the good, and that which is most of all, a business (most acceptable to God) to bring svch poor infidels to knowledge of God and His Holy Gospel.

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